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GB 1011468

GB 0498616

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GB 0982242

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(58) Field of search

A5G

H4J

Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class A61L

(54) **Bactericidal shields for telephone handsets**

(57) A set of bactericidal shields for use on telephone handsets comprises a pair of plastic shields designed to clip over or into the telephone mouthpiece and earpiece respectively, each shield being impregnated with a bactericide which is able to leech out of the shield over a period of time.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

SPECIFICATION

A set of bactericidal shields for use on telephone handsets

- 5 This invention relates to a set of bactericidal shields for use on telephone handsets, and which may additionally carry one or a combination of a perfume, germicide or disinfectant.
- 10 One of the problems with the common telephone is that the mouthpiece and earpiece tend to harbour dirt and germs, and it is therefore not unusual for large organisations to employ specialised firms to clean their tele-
- 15 phones on a regular basis. This is however, expensive, and it is an object of the present invention to do away with this cleaning requirement and at the same time to provide a telephone which is more pleasant to use.
- 20 Accordingly, the present invention provides a set of bactericidal shields for use on telephone handsets, the set comprising a pair of plastic shields designed to clip over or into the telephone mouthpiece and earpiece re-
- 25 spectively, each shield being impregnated with a bactericide which is able to leech out of the shield over a period of time.
- If desired, each shield may also be impregnated with a germicide, disinfectant, or perfume which is also able to leech out of the
- 30 shield over the period of time. A preferred perfume is a lemon or pine aroma.
- The shields will be shaped as appropriate so as to be able to clip over or into the
- 35 mouthpiece and earpiece respectively and also to be readily removable when a substantial part of the bactericide has leached out. The shields will thus be disposable.
- Preferably, the shields are perforated to
- 40 match the perforations of the mouthpiece and earpiece respectively of the telephone handset.
- The shields may come in many different shapes and sizes so as to be able to fit any
- 45 type of telephone handset. Preferably, a plurality of sets of shields would be sold packed in a suitable moisture-proof carton, with each set being individually sealed in an evacuated, sterile plastic or foil container. The carton could be kept by the telephone handset, thereby al-
- 50 lowing the telephone user to change the set at will.
- The bactericide preferably is such as to provide prolonged bactericidal activity and may, for example, be in the form of a 0.5% by
- 55 weight solution of chlorhexidine acetate or gluconate. The solution is preferably aqueous, but may, if desired contain other solvents commonly used in the art.
- Preferably, the amount of bactericide, and
- 60 any other optional ingredients, is adjusted such that substantially all of the ingredients leeches out of the shields in a period of about 14 days.
- Conveniently, the bactericide is coloured or
- 65 the shields are impregnated with a substance

which changes colour when a substantial part of the bactericide has leached out of the shield, thereby providing a ready indication as to when the shields should be changed.

- 70 Conveniently, the shields include a section of foamed or otherwise absorbent material in order to enable easy impregnation of the shields by the bactericide and any other optional ingredients. Preferably, such a section is lo-
- 75 cated at the centre of each shield. This will also be of advantage in improving user comfort, especially in respect of the earpiece.

CLAIMS

- 80 1. A set of bactericidal shields for use on telephone handsets, the set comprising a pair of plastic shields designed to clip over or into the telephone mouthpiece and earpiece re-
- 85 spectively, each shield being impregnated with a bactericide which is able to leech out of the shield over a period of time.
2. The set of shields of claim 1, wherein each shield is also impregnated with a germicide, disinfectant, or perfume which is also
- 90 able to leech out of the shield over the period of time.
3. The set of shields of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the shields are perforated to match the perforations of the mouthpiece and ear-
- 95 piece respectively of the telephone handset.
4. The set of shields of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the bactericide is coloured or the shields are impregnated with a substance which changes colour when a substantial part
- 100 of the bactericide has leached out of the shield, thereby providing a ready indication as to when the shields should be changed.
5. A set of bactericidal shields for use on telephone handsets, substantially as hereinbe-
- 105 fore described.

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